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To: ehbarak1@gmail.com
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Date: Tue, 12/15/2015 9:33:54 AM
Subject: In today's FT: Loot and levies underpinjihadi economy, Minimum wag...

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Tuesday December 15 2015

UK HOMEPAGE

Loot and levies underpin jihadi economy

Militants raise hundreds of millions of dollars a year from trade and agriculture to ‘war spoils’

Minimum wage rise to cost employers £1bn

Regulatory Policy Committee criticised government for not assessing total cost up until 2020

Bond investor anxiety ahead of Fed move

Markets braced for end to era of cheap money

VIDEO

AstraZeneca's Christmas shopping

UK drugmaker AstraZeneca is in talks to acquire cancer drug developer Acerta Pharma, possibly for more than $5bn. Lex's Oliver Ralph and Jonathan Eley discuss the challenges AstraZeneca has faced in recent years and why the potential takeover is important.

US HOMEPAGE

Oil tumbles towards crisis-era lows

‘Smell of fear’ in air as Brent and WTI drop further

Uber drivers win union ‘breakthrough’

Seattle move set to boost early efforts by drivers to organise in other US cities

Wells Fargo warns of energy ‘stresses’

Bank in talks with clients to cut borrowing limits as oil price slump hits servicers and producers

EUROPE HOMEPAGE

Obama seeks new urgency over Isis fight

Defence secretary heads to Middle East to rally support from allies

Europe’s tech-mad teens face tighter parental controls

Social media groups dependent on youth market riled by Brussels move on under-16s

Watson China plan is a thing of beauty

As upmarket stores close, Li Ka-shing’s chain eyes hundreds more

ASIA HOMEPAGE

What to expect from the Fed meeting

With lift-off expected, all eyes will be on clues to the pace of rate rises

Ex-Wall St stars swap banking for fintech

Big names are busy disrupting their old industry via technology

Temple siege stokes S Korea rights debate

Hunt for union leader fuels national conversation on freedoms and state powers

WORLD NEWS

Greece privatises island airports

Syriza completes U-turn by handing control to German-Greek partnership

Merkel wins CDU backing on refugees

German chancellor sees off threat of party conference revolt

Fiasco over finance minister weakens Zuma

Chaotic saga hurts president after huge miscalculation

Sarkozy poll win fails to silence critics

Republicans set for internal battle after contest that was only won with help of Socialist voters

Canada refugee policy contrasts with US

New government says its plan to take in 25,000 immigrants would bring long-term economic benefits

COMPANIES NEWS

Samsung appeals in Apple patent fight

Plea to Supreme Court in last-ditch bid to overturn design ruling

Cheniere boss toppled at moment of triumph

Charif Souki has been ousted just as the energy company plans to export liquefied natural gas

Shell aims to bolster case for BG deal

Chinese regulators approve takeover but some investors remain wary over acquisition of rival

Walker Greenbank profits hit by storm

Floods damage luxury wallpaper maker’s Lancaster factory

AudioBoom shares slide on slow growth

US group’s annual sales lag despite number of users singed up to streaming service rising 46%

MARKETS

Oil slide weighs on equities

Crude hits new 7-year low as caution dominates Asia equities trading amid Fed countdown

Focus on uncertainty over risky bank debt

Question whether regulators will let lenders call bonds even when it seems ‘uneconomic’ to do so

Jittery EMs await US rate policy fallout

Concern over rising pile of debt that has built up since the global financial crisis

Fed and markets steer for calmer waters

Charting the course for the first rate hike cycle in nearly a decade

Junk bond fund ‘meltdown’ call overdone

Third Avenue not likely a harbinger of more mutual fund closures

COMMENT

Le Pen, climate and defeat of nationalism

The contest between nationalists and internationalists is playing out the world over

Fatal flaw at heart of Brexit campaign

Britons dislike the establishment, but not as much as they dislike anti-establishment ranters

Too much ‘medicine’ is a bad idea

Global regulators must assess unintended consequences of reform, writes Nobuchika Mori

Countdown to Major Tim’s ISS dream

To use the argument favoured by mountaineers: we should visit space simply because it’s there

Wealth comes with health warning in China

If ‘right living’ head of one of country’s leading companies can disappear, then no tycoon is safe

MANAGEMENT

Blockchain believers move into finance

Meet one of the innovators looking at mainstream applications for the infrastructure behind bitcoin

VW needs more therapy to change mindset

The carmaker’s directors should take a look at Bill Gates’s reading list for insight

Cause and cures for runner’s ‘runny nose’

Fend off the effects of overexertion with treatments from zinc to gargling

Restaurant Vrbas, Banja Luka

Take a popular rafting tour on the river and finish with a lunch meeting with a view

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